Philosophy and Values

The Course is underpinned by NHS principles and values as detailed in the NHS Constitution (2021).

The course believes the quality of everyone's experience in our society is of supreme value. Actions that promote the quality of life for a person and reduce impediments to that quality of life are therefore of great value.

Clinical psychology has a role to play in supporting people's quality of life, facilitating well-being and reducing distress – helping people to live lives that are good for them, in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards and concerns (taken from the World Health Organisation).

The course believes we need to develop practitioners, researchers and psychological leaders who are compassionate, ethical, professional, knowledgeable, skilled, resilient, confident and committed to their clients – delivering accessible and culturally sensitive services. Our practitioners should be critical thinkers who can evaluate the knowledge and skills they are acquiring in context, drawing on a broader systemic perspective, and continually improving future practice and research.

The course believes in the importance of equity, dignity and respect in clinical practice and in education delivery. We aim to address discrimination, eliminate racism and reduce educational and health inequalities through commitment, understanding and action. Specifically, we endeavour to offer an inclusive environment where every member of the student and staff body feels safe, valued, supported and can thrive free from prejudice, bullying, harassment and unlawful discrimination. We will take action to revise discriminatory organisational structures, to challenge inappropriate behaviour and discriminatory practice (taken from RHUL / NHS Providers/ NHS confederation).

The course believes that psychological practice and training is a shared enterprise between psychologists and the users of psychological services, that the rights and dignity and autonomy of service users are paramount and that the benefits to be derived from the application of psychological knowledge to people's lives arise through a process of collaboration.